Message Text

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2.1

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-10 AID-20 CPR-02 SCA-01 PPT-02 VO-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AGR-20 IO-14

DRC-01 /166 W

----- 035614

R 041245Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5436

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, CVIS, SF, BC, LT, WZ

SUBJ: SOURTH AFRICAN IMPOSITION OF FEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE

ENTRY ARRANGEMENTS

REF: PRETORIA 1652

1. RSA HAS NOTIFIED BLS EMBASSIES THROUGH RESPECTIVE FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEPARTMENTS OF DECISION TO IMPOSE A TWO RAND FEE, TO BE COLLECTED AT SA ENTRY POST, FOR SHORT-NOTICE ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRY ARRANGEMENTS. NOTE FROM RSA TO BLS FORMINS STRESSES REQUESTS FOR ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH SA SEC. FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAD STIPULATED SHOULD BE MADE ONLY IN CASES EMERGENCY, HAD INCREASED SHARPLY. THIS ACTION IS TO TAKE EFFECT FROM 01 JUNE 1974, AND APPLIES TO PC, AID, UN AND ANALOGOUS PERSONNEL.

2. THIS ACTION IS LATEST SA VIOLATION OF SA-US VISA RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS. SITUATION IS COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT RECENT HIGH INCIDENCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE ENTRY ARRANGEMENTS FOR PCVS AND OTHER OFFICIAL AMERICANS WAS DUE TO FAILURE RSA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MININTERIOR ACT EXPEDITIOUSLY ON REQUESTS FOR LPS IN VAST

MAJORITY OF CASES; AS A RESULT LAST-MINUTE ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS BECAME NECESSARY. IN A NUMBER OF CASES, PCVS HAD APPLIED FOUR TO FIVE WEEKS IN ADVANCE AND WERE NOTIFIED BY IMMEDIATE CABLE ONLY ON AFTERNOON OF DAY PRIOR SA TRIP THAT ADMIN ENTRY ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE.

- 3. SA OFFICIALS HAVE REPORTEDLY ADMITTED TO EMBOFFS THAT SYSTEM OF AMEMBASSIES PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PCVS, AID CONTRACT, AND OTHER OFFICIAL AMERICANS HAS WORKED WELL AND AMCITS NOT QUOTE ABUSERS UNQUOTE OF SHORT-NOTICE REQUESTS FOR ADMIN ENTRIES. NEVERTHELESS, SAG HAS AGAIN LUMPED AMCITS IN SAME CATEGORY WITH UNDP AND OTHER FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERSONNEL. THIS EMPHASIZED BY SA DFA TELEX NOTES TO BLS FORMINS INSTEAD OF NOTIFICATION TO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA.
- 4. WHEN SAG AGREED TO SINGLE-ENTRY LP SYSTEM IN OCT 72, IT WAS HOPED THAT IF SYSTEM WORKED WELL, A RELAXING OF SA VISA NON-RECIPORCITY WITH REGARD TO AMCITS WOULD FOLLOW. WE BELIEVE THAT SAG HAS HAD EIGHTEEN MONTHS TO SEE THAT PCVS AND OTHER "OFFICIAL" AMERICANS ASSIGNED TO BLS STATES HAVE NOT CREATED QUOTE PROBLEMS UNQUOTE DURING TRIPS TO AND THROUGH RSA. THE IMPOSITION OF AN ENTRY FEE FOR ADMIN ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE SEEN AS A REGRESSIVE RATHER THAN A PROGRESSIVE STEP WITH REGARD TO ISSUE OF NON-RECIPROCITY AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AMCITS.
- 5. IN OUR VIEW THIS LATEST VIOLATION OF VISA RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT GO UNCHALLEGED AND DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO RAISE ISSUE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, NOTING THAT PRETORIA HAS CONTINUED TO PRESS SAG (SEE REFTEL) FOR REVIEW OF SAG VISA POLICIES.
 BOLEN

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